

Black River Environmental Health Services

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May 20, 2009

To: Vashon-Maury Island Marine Recovery Area Property Owners

From: Larry Fay, Community Environmental Health Section Manager

RE: Vashon-Maury Island Marine Recovery Area Meetings:

Saturday June 6, 2009 from 10:00 to 12:00

Saturday June 13, 2009 from 12:00 to 2:00

Wednesday June 17, 2009 from 7:30 to 9:00

**Chautauqua Elementary Multi-Purpose Room
Chautauqua Elementary School,
9309 SW Cemetery Road , Vashon Island**

Public Health Seattle King County, in accordance with State laws and regulations, has indentified several areas on Vashon and Maury Islands that it has designated as Marine Recovery Areas. Your property is located within one of the designated areas.

You are invited to attend a public meeting of your choice to learn more about the Vashon-Maury Island Marine Recovery Area. The meeting will include an overview of the VMI MRA boundaries, the objectives stemming from an MRA designation and a discussion of specific steps property owners in the MRA can take to evaluate and if necessary repair or replace a failing On-Site Sewage System. This will be an opportunity for you to learn about the MRA and an opportunity for us to learn about some of the problems that may be faced when upgrading and replacing older septic systems

We are now looking forward to meeting with property owners, residents, community associations and other interested groups to begin implementing the MRA. We hope you can join us for one of the scheduled public meetings or the special talk-radio show!

Getting to the Meetings

If coming from the north, drive south on Vashon Highway. Cemetery Road should be the second stop sign you encounter. Turn left. The entrance to both Chautauqua Elementary and McMurray Middle schools will be on your right in about 1/2 mile.

If coming from the south, drive north on Vashon Highway. Cemetery Road will be the third stop sign you encounter. Turn right. The entrance to the school will be on your right in about 1/2 mile.

Background

As you are aware your property has been included in the Marine Recovery Area (MRA). Recall, in 2008 the Public Health Seattle-King County (PH-SKC) Board of Health adopted an On-Site Septic System Management Plan designating the MRA for certain portions of Vashon-Maury Island that within or adjoining "prohibited" or "unclassified" shellfish harvest areas. Property owners within the MRA need to inspect, and repair or replace their On-Site Sewage (OSS) system if needed by July 1, 2012, then annually inspect OSS function after 2012.

To address the MRA designation, property owners should obtain a professional inspection of their OSS to document the system type, location, function and prepare an as-built plan of the system if one does not already exist. If the professional inspection determines that the OSS is not functioning, owners can work with a licensed OSS designer to evaluate options to repair, replace, or install an alternate method of treating their wastewater.

MRA Objectives

In the Quartermaster Harbor MRA area Public Health Seattle & King County has been working since 2005 with approximately 175 property owners to complete an OSS inventory and identify systems that need repair or replacement. Where the inventory has been completed the focus is to work with property owners, OSS designers and OSS installers to repair or replace the failing OSS. The short term goal is to correct enough of the failing OSS to entirely or partially lift shellfish harvest restrictions in the area.

In the East Passage MRA area Public Health Seattle & King County will work with approximately 115 property owners to educate them about the MRA project, septic problems and potential solutions. The short term goal is to complete an inventory of OSS for each of the five sub-areas in the East Passage MRA.

Longer term, the goals for implementation of the MRA include:

- Making significant progress on repair or replacement of failing OSS in both the Quartermaster Harbor and East Passage areas; and,
- Evaluation of existing and new data to identify other potential MRA's to reduce the number of failing OSS and improve water quality.

Resources

Public Health Seattle-King County has assembled a variety of resources to assist MRA owners at our web site at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs.aspx> including:

- **King County Onsite System Management Plan**
- **MRA maps showing individual parcels and the status of the OSS for each parcel**
- **OSS As-Built Plans and Inspection Records**
- **OSS Inspection Report Form for MRA and Time of Sale**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
- **State Approved On-Site Treatment Systems and Products**
- **Quartermaster Harbor Community System Wastewater Treatment Options Report**
- **Marine Recovery Area Background Information**
- **MRA press releases and news articles**
- **Partners seeking solutions to OSS problems on VMI**